

18. (Twice Amended) An exhaust-gas purifying process comprising:

preparing a catalyst for purifying exhaust gas, said catalyst comprising (i) a fire-resistant inorganic compound having at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium deposited thereon and (ii) a metallic sulfate having iridium deposited thereon;

setting an exhaust-gas temperature in a range of 200°C to 700°C at an inlet to the catalyst for purifying the exhaust gas; and

directing the exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine through the catalyst for purifying the exhaust gas so as to reduce nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas.

19. (Twice Amended) An exhaust-gas purifying process comprising:

preparing a catalyst for purifying exhaust gas comprising (i) a fire-resistant inorganic compound having at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium deposited thereon and (ii) a metallic sulfate having iridium deposited thereon;

setting an exhaust-gas temperature in a range of 200°C to 700°C at an inlet to the catalyst for purifying the exhaust gas; and

directing the exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine through the catalyst for purifying the exhaust gas so as to reduce hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas from the internal combustion engine.

20. (Twice Amended) An exhaust-gas purifying process comprising:  
preparing a catalyst comprising a fire-resistant inorganic compound having at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium deposited thereon, and a metallic sulfate having iridium deposited thereon;  
setting an exhaust-gas temperature in a range of 200°C to 700°C at an inlet to the catalyst for purifying exhaust gas; and  
directing an exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine through the catalyst to purify the exhaust gas and reduce nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas.

21. (Twice Amended) An exhaust-gas purifying process comprising:  
preparing a catalyst comprising a fire-resistant inorganic compound having at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium deposited thereon, and a metallic sulfate having iridium deposited thereon;  
setting an exhaust-gas temperature in a range of 200°C to 700°C at an inlet to the catalyst; and  
directing an exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine to pass through the catalyst for purifying exhaust gas so as to reduce hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas from the internal combustion engine.

22. (Twice Amended) An exhaust-gas purifying process comprising:  
preparing a catalyst comprising a fire-resistant inorganic compound having at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium deposited thereon, and a metallic sulfate having iridium deposited thereon;

setting an exhaust-gas temperature in a range of 200°C to 700°C at an inlet to the catalyst for purifying exhaust gas; and

directing an exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine through the catalyst to purify the exhaust gas and reduce nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas.

23. (Twice Amended) An exhaust-gas purifying process comprising:

preparing a catalyst comprising a fire-resistant inorganic compound having at least one element selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium and rhodium deposited thereon, and a metallic sulfate having iridium deposited thereon;

setting an exhaust-gas temperature in a range of 200°C to 700°C at an inlet to the catalyst; and

directing an exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine to pass through the catalyst for purifying exhaust gas so as to reduce hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas from the internal combustion engine.

#### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The non-elected claims have been cancelled, as is suggested in the Action. Further, the renumbering of claims 24 to 27, now claims 20 to 23, is evident from the marked up claims in the appendix.